GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2526
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
TRANSPORTATION OF ONION
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Ad-hoc Committee of Maharashtra Legislature on Onion had requested the Union Government for making special transport arrangements for Onion including availability of ventilated wagons, reduction in freight rates for the perishable commodity and making a railway siding available near different onion growing areas like Lasagaon, Manmad and Nasik;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) whether the Government has assured the State Government during a meeting on November 6, 2003 to take effective steps in the matter; and

(d) if so, the steps so far taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2526 BY SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.12.2004 REGARDING TRANSPORTATION OF ONION.

(b) to (d): To facilitate loading of Onion from the State of Maharashtra, following steps have been taken:

(i) The concerned zonal railway is arranging railway wagons for loading of Onion at the earliest.

(ii) The movement of Onion is being done on priority. Presently, no indent is outstanding.

(iii) Adequate Railway siding facilities for loading of Onion are available at Nasik Road, Lasagaon (Lasalgaon) and Manmad.

(iv) Freight rates of Onion are already at lowest classification (class- 90). Any further reduction is not feasible.

(v) Railways are providing adequate wagons for loading of Onion. However, in view of the seasonal loading of Onion, special ventilated wagons are not operationally justified as it involves additional expenditure without commensurate benefit.